

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to use the new carts provided by Casella?

Yes. The new automated collection system cannot accommodate other carts or bins. If trash or recycling is not in the Casella cart, it cannot be collected.

Where do I place my carts?

Carts must be placed curbside with wheels toward the house, at least three feet apart from each other, free of other objects with plenty of clearance above as they will be lifted above the truck.

How can I keep my waste disposal cost low?

1. Recycle more and generate less trash. Pownal trash and recycling are hauled to EcoMaine in Portland. Pownal taxpayers pay EcoMaine per ton to receive trash and recycling, and we pay less per ton for recyclables. Producing less of both is the best way to keep costs down for taxpayers.
2. Compost your food waste. It is a large percentage of the waste stream by weight.
3. Do not put bulky items like furniture and tires in your Casella Carts. Our agreements with Casella and EcoMaine do not allow for the disposal of bulky waste. These can damage equipment, and lead to additional fees from EcoMaine if received there. When possible, make arrangements with the retailer to take away the old item. If that is not an option, the Freeport Transfer Station and Recycling Facility is available for use by all Pownal residents. The facility is located on Hedgehog Mountain Road off of Pownal Road and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 7:00am - 4:00pm. General use of the facility requires the purchase of an annual vehicle sticker, available from the staff. Waste including drywall, asphalt shingles, metals, large furniture, air conditioners and dehumidifiers, gasoline and oil, automotive batteries, automobile and truck tires, brush and other yard wastes, demo-wood, etc. may be disposed of there. In addition to the sticker fee, there are smaller fees associated with disposal of most items. For specific fees and information, call the Freeport Recycling Facility at 207-865-3740 or visit their [website](#).
4. Metal items can be saved for disposal during Pownal Pride Days in the spring. The collected metal is sold and the profits are used to reduce the budget for solid waste and recycling in Pownal.
5. Buy products with minimal packaging and buy in bulk when possible.

What about returnable bottles?

1. Pownal's Fire Company has a separate building outside of Mallett Hall for the donation of returnable cans and bottles. The money generated from these donations is used primarily to support the Fire and Rescue Department.

What are Hazardous Wastes?

Anything that is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic is considered hazardous waste. Do not put these in your trash.

Improperly disposing of Rechargeable Batteries is a leading cause of catastrophic fires. Many stores including The Home Depot, Lowe's, and Staples accept these batteries for recycling. More drop off locations can be found at <https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/>. DO NOT PUT RECHARGABLE BATTERIES IN YOUR CASELLA CARTS.

Non-Universal Hazardous Wastes - include pesticides and fertilizers, varnishes and polishes, oil based paints, resins, automotive fuels and fluids, pool chemicals, household and bathroom cleaners, etc.

Dispose of these at:

1. Riverside Recycling Center: 910 Riverside St, Portland, ME 04103. Call for disposal days and fees 797-6200
2. Clean Harbors on 17 Main Street in South Portland is open year-round 9:00 -3:00 Monday through Friday. Clean Harbors is also available to collect hazardous waste from residences. 799-8111. <http://www.cleanharbors.com/>

Universal Hazardous Wastes - include wastes that are contained within a product, such as the mercury contained within compact fluorescent light bulbs and thermostats, the nickel contained in certain batteries, etc. Electronic wastes (also known as E-wastes) such as laptop computers, portable DVD players, computer monitors, and televisions are also considered universal waste.

Dispose of these at:

1. Freeport Transfer Station and Recycling Facility.
2. Riverside Recycling Center in Portland

Kitchen scraps, kitty litter, brush?

Kitchen scraps, garden waste, leaves, grass clippings, wood ash, etc., may be composted in your back yard. Animal wastes, including kitty litter, may also be composted or buried in your yard (well away from your well). It is generally

recommended that pet wastes not be composted within your garden compost pile if that compost is to be used around food crops and unless your compost reaches very high temperatures. Brush and leaves may be burned with a permit obtainable during regular business hours from Town Hall, or on Saturdays from 9-11 at the Fire Department's Center Station on Elmwood Road.

I pick up roadside trash when I am out walking. What do I do with it?

Thank you for keeping Pownal beautiful! Much of what you collect is recyclable. In addition, the Fire Department will appreciate the returnables. If you collect more roadside trash than you can fit in your Casella cart, please reach out to solidwastecommittee@pownalmaine.org to discuss a plan for disposal.